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CORPORATE BUSINESS, AVIATION, MICE & LEISURE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

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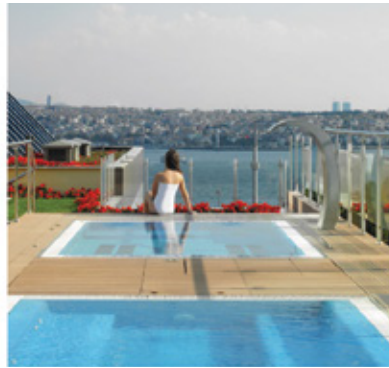
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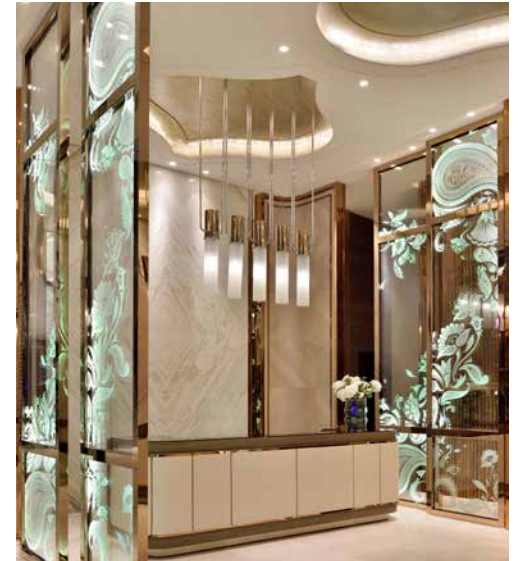
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FLY OMAN AIR, FLY LUXE

In conversation with Paul Gregorowitsch CEO, Oman Air, who recently visited India to mark 24 years of operations in the country

TT BUREAU

You recently celebrated 24 years of operations in India. How would you describe the journey?

India has always been, and will continue to remain, a key market for Oman Air. We are delighted to be offering thousands more guests the opportunity to travel between Oman and India. Oman and India enjoy a close and historic relationship and Indian air travellers have played an important part in Oman Air's success. The first international service that Oman Air launched in India was to Trivandrum in November 1993. Since then, we have launched 10 more destinations. The demand for all 11 of our Indian destinations has always been high and the increased frequencies this year offer more choice and convenience to our guests. The extended traffic entitlements will give a further boost to the tourism sector, prompting many discerning tourists to visit magnificent Oman as well as beautiful India. We look forward to welcoming many more Indian air travellers aboard our aircraft as we continue our ambitious fleet and network expansion programme.

What are your plans at large and plans for India specifically?

Over the past year, in the Indian market, Oman Air has seen an average rate of close to 80 per cent in seat occupancy and has increased its seat capacity by 30 per cent. The fact that the aviation sector in India is so dynamic and forward-thinking, not to mention the third largest in the world, has made it an important market for the airline.

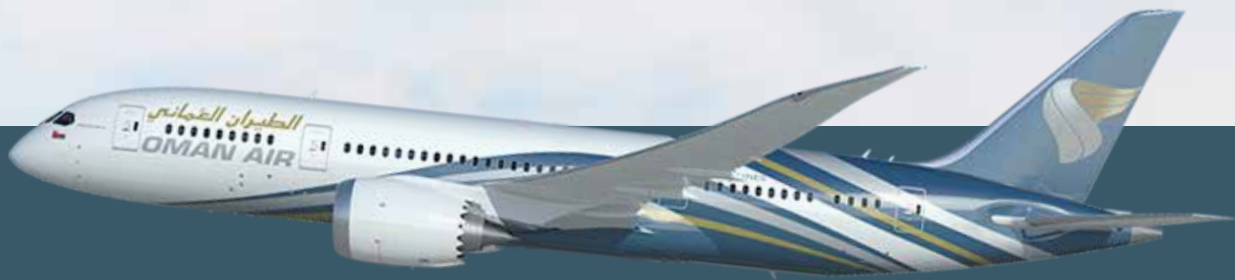
However, there are challenges facing the airline in India, due to the lack of infrastructure at some of its airports. In Mumbai, we are moving from double daily flights to triple daily flights. While we have bilaterals, the infrastructure is quite difficult as there is only one runway.

Tell us about your further investments in India?

Within the last year, the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India have agreed to increase the number of flights between the two countries. Starting on August 1, 2017, Oman Air introduced a third daily flight from Mumbai to Muscat, which increases the weekly capacity from 154 to 161 flights. Delhi, Calicut and Hyderabad now have 21 weekly flights each, and Lucknow operates 14 weekly flights. Oman Air is expected to operate 70 aircraft by 2020, which will fly to as many as 75 destinations, thereby increasing its network and reach across the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Europe.

Paul Gregorowitsch - Chief Executive Officer





Tell us a little about the impending open sky air service agreement between the two countries?

We can't currently comment on this matter other than to say that we are pursuing an open sky air service agreement, which would allow for airlines from the two countries to have an unlimited number of flights as well as seats to each other's jurisdictions.

What are your plans in traction to attract more business and premium corporate travellers from India?

Oman Air's commitment to quality, comfort and a seamless passenger experience has resulted in widespread acclaim. Its numerous accolades include being named World's Leading Business Class Airline – Middle East by The World Travel Awards four years in a row and receiving the coveted Signum Virtutis, the seal of excellence, from the Seven Stars Luxury Hospitality and Lifestyle Awards 2016. The airline was also awarded the Skytrax World Airline Award for Best Business Class Seat in the World (2011, 2012), the World Travel Award for World's Leading Airport Lounge – Business Class 2015 and was named the best airline in the Middle East, Africa and Europe.

As the fleet continues to grow, the airline is committed to providing guests with the latest technology and best possible on-board experience. Understanding the need for privacy, Oman Air has designed its award-winning Business Class seats, offering just 20 seats in the 1-2-1 seat-configuration. The electrically controlled backrest, leg-rest and seat-depth of the Business Class seat make sure effortless comfort is achieved. Its 77.5-inch long, fully-flat seat is carefully created to give that much needed rest whilst on a long haul flight.

The configuration is slightly different on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which features 30 award-winning flat-bed Business Class Suites, designed by BE Aerospace, and the award-winning Thales' Integrated In-Flight entertainment system. The entertainment system offers a wide selection of on-demand entertainment delivered through a passenger experience interface developed in collaboration with Oman Air.

Whether flying First Class or Business Class, a range of modern and traditional fine-dining dishes have been specially selected. The airline's award-winning Champagnes and wines have been chosen to complement the food choices. An array of fine teas, coffees and non-alcohol beverages are also offered to suit different palates.

What is your expected growth in terms of passengers from India given that Gulf carriers are going through a difficult time?

Oman Air has added 5,067 seats this summer. In the winter schedule, it will add 1,821 seats as the bilateral agreement



From Left to Right:

Bhanu Kaila - Country Manager – India, Ihab Sorial - Senior Vice President - International Sales, Paul Gregorowitsch - Chief Executive Officer, Sunil V.A - Regional Vice President – ISC

between Oman and India was revised to permit the carrier to operate additional seats. The total number of weekly flights has now increased from 128 to 161, allowing the airline to move to a total of 27,405 seats – 28,000 seats is the maximum permitted between Oman and India. Oman Air's service to India has a loyal patronage from its guests, who mainly come from Oman's Indian expatriate community.

JORDAN TOURISM HOLDS EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS IN MUMBAI, BENGALURU & NEW DELHI

Think Strawberries, Jordan Tourism Board's Representative Office in India, held multi-city Educational Seminars in the major outbound cities of India, New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru recently. The aim of these seminars was to educate travel agents and tour operators of the fabulous offerings that Jordan has and to announce the success of its activities and plans through 2016-2017.

The event was attended by Majd Abuarqub, the India market in-charge from Jordan Tourism Board and Ashit Taneja, Country Manager, Jordan Tourism Board's Representative Office in India, along with the Think Strawberries team. 'We are delighted that our company Think Strawberries has been chosen as the India representative office for JTB for the past five years as we have shown a positive growth trajectory for the destination from India,' said Taneja.



Travel Agents at Jordan Educational Seminar - New Delhi

ONAM FESTIVITES BEGIN IN KERALA

Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran officially inaugurated the Onam Celebrations at the Tourism Directorate office in Thiruvananthapuram. The occasion was marked by unveiling of the logo and festival theme for Onam celebrations. The first copy of the logo and festival theme was handed over to the MLA B Sathyan, by Tourism Minister, Surendran who said that the department will strictly adhere to the 'environment friendly protocol' during the Onam celebrations and requested the organisers to follow the guidelines stringently throughout the celebrations.

The other dignitaries who graced the occasion included MLAs DK Murali and CK Hareendran, along with Tourism Additional Director, M Raghudasan, Deputy Director VS Anil and other prominent cultural and social luminaries of the city. This marks the beginning of the tourism department's Onam festivities in the state.



RADISSON BLU UNVEILS 'THE ART OF WEDDINGS' ACROSS INDIA

Radisson Blu launches 'The Art of Weddings', a campaign created exclusively for the India market. Building on the brand's global, 'Something Blu, A Wedding of a Kind' concept, the initiative will run across all of India's 34 Radisson Blu hotels.

Sandy Russell, Vice President, Commercial Operations, Asia Pacific, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, said, "India is a very important market for us where we are committed to strengthening our brand presence. The 'Art of Weddings' taps on the huge potential of the wedding market in India and is unique in its targeting, delivery and reach."

Raj Rana, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, said, "We are excited to launch 'The Art of Weddings' in India, where we have Radisson Blu hotels located in primary and secondary cities. We believe that Radisson Blu, with its service philosophy of 'Yes I Can!' is uniquely positioned to deliver a one-stop destination for all wedding needs of the Indian consumer."

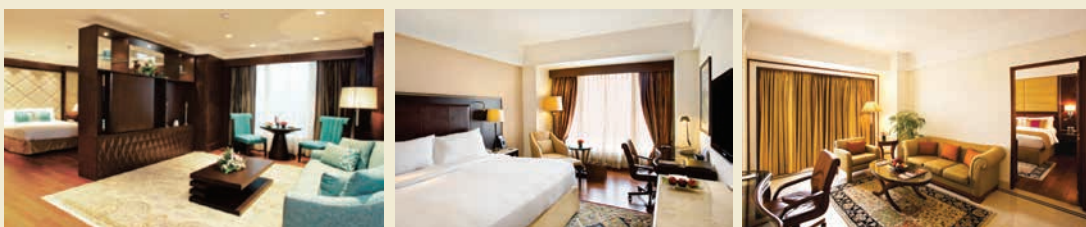




THE FINEST OF EXPERIENCES NEED THE FINEST LOCATIONS

Located in the centre of South Delhi's business district and overlooking the renowned Bahai Temple, Eros Hotel, Nehru Place, stands as a true icon for both business and leisure traveller with international standards of hospitality.

Eros Hotel offers multiple activities in its immediate vicinity and elegant rooms with magnificent views of the city skyline. Choose from 218 spacious guest rooms and suites and discover luxurious, stylish and multi-functional contemporary spaces that offer fine dining and friendly service.



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DEYOR CAMPS FORAYS INTO BHUTAN

Deyor Camps, successfully designing out-of-the-box tour accommodation solutions in some of the finest places in India, is now all set to employ its expertise in the field to help the wandering but purposeful souls to have some memorable moments in Bhutan as well. The company has launched 6 nights/7 days package for Bhutan travellers.

The popular tourist spots of Bhutan, like Thimpu, Phuentsholing, Punakha /Wangdue and Paro, which are all magnificent and awe-inspiring, are very well-covered in the tour master plan. Even with a limited sum of money that tourists may spare for fun activities, Deyor Camps can unhesitatingly assist them in creating a magical Bhutan experience that is worth revisiting in dreams year after year.

FIRST PARK REGIS HOTEL TO OPEN IN BAHRAIN

The Kingdom of Bahrain will soon welcome international hotel brand Park Regis with the opening of the island nation's first Park Regis, Hotel in the Juffair district of Manama, in the last quarter of 2017.

"Following the signature of a 550-keys, Park Regis Resort in the UAE, I am encouraged by the future expansion plans into the region and confident that this partnership with VKL Group reflects our commitment to grow our presence in the Middle East

Region," said Simon Wan, Group CEO, StayWell Hospitality.

"We are looking forward to a long and successful partnership with StayWell Hospitality Group and are confident that we can move quickly with future properties under the StayWell Brands; Park Regis and Leisure Inn," said Dr Varghese Kurian, Chairman, VKL Group.



FAMILIARISATION TRIP TO MALAYSIA

Tourism Malaysia, New Delhi, in association with Air Asia, recently conducted a familiarisation trip for bloggers and the print media to highlight an amazing and magical experience in Ipoh, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur. During the trip bloggers and the print media got a chance to stay in some premium properties – The Haven Resort, Ipoh, The Hilton, Kota Kinabalu, The Shangri La's Rasa Ria Resort, Tauran and Seri Pacific Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The trip was intended to increase awareness and give a different experience of new activities and products. The trip began with a tour of Asia's first animation park – MAPS, 7 elements of adventure – Lost World of Tambun, one of the longest caves in Malaysia – Gua Tempurung,

and The Banjaran Hotsprings Retreat Resort in Ipoh, followed by a tour of the second largest pontoon in the world – Borneo ReefWorld, North Borneo Sunset Cruise, the scenic beauty of Mount Kinabalu in Kota Kinabalu. The trip ended with the experience of Jalan Alor's street food and shopping in Kuala Lumpur.



THOMAS COOK INDIA LAUNCHES ROMANTIC GETAWAYS

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd has recently launched a unique group tour portfolio, 'Romantic Getaways', to tap into Middle India's high growth honeymoon travel segment.

Commenting on the launch of Romantic Getaways, Rajeev Kale – President and Country Head – Leisure Travel & MICE, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. said, "The honeymoon travel segment is witnessing exponential growth emerging from Middle India, but managing a honeymoon, a once-in-a-lifetime occasion, and negotiating potential challenges that emerge on tour is truly daunting/ stressful. And, for Middle India's first-time travellers this is even more so. Our new 'Romantic Getaways' are hence of great value, leaving the day-to-day execution to the expertise of Thomas Cook's experienced tour manager – delightful inclusions, the comfort of Indian meals and co-travellers ensuring a happy spouse and the start of a blissful wedded life!"

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PANORAMA DESTINATION: NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TRN MARKETING

Panorama Destination announces its new partnership with TRN Marketing in India. Panorama Destination is made up of highly skilled and experienced professionals with extensive local knowledge, guided by innovative and progressive management. With its head office located in Jakarta, the company is perfectly placed to offer the very best service available to the thousands of Indian nationals who choose Indonesia as their holiday destination.

Since 1999, Panorama Destination has developed a wide array of products and facilitated holidays for global clients. Panorama boasts expertise in adventure travel, destination weddings, educational excursions, cruises, golfing, culture tours and MICE.

On the partnership with TRN Marketing, Renato Domini, CEO of Panorama Destination, said: "We are delighted by our association with TRN Marketing in India. I am assured from my discussion with Sidhartha Roy, Senior Vice President of TRN Marketing, that a focussed and professional commitment will be made to goals and objectives".

This partnership will enhance Panorama Destination's capacity to provide unforgettable experiences to Indian tourists in Indonesia.



PREFERRED HOTELS & RESORTS WELCOMES 23 NEW MEMBER HOTELS

Preferred Hotels & Resorts welcomed 23 new member hotels across 13 countries to its brand portfolio from May to July 2017. Travellers to Asia Pacific now have even more options to experience #ThePreferredLife with nine new hotel members across the region.

Travellers can book a stay at any of these hotels online or via their mobile device through the new iPrefer mobile app, available to members of the Preferred Hotels & Resorts iPrefer hotel rewards programme, which extends points redeemable towards free nights and other on-property expenditures, elite status, and other complimentary benefits to guests. Free to join, the iPrefer hotel rewards programme currently has 1.8 million members.



'ASEAN IS MORE – FIRST STOP SINGAPORE' LAUNCHED

In celebration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) 50th founding anniversary, global travel brands Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts and Singapore Airlines have partnered to launch a regional travel campaign called "ASEAN Is More – First Stop Singapore." The campaign will showcase Southeast Asia's diverse destinations with specially curated leisure travel offers, which can be reserved till 31 October, 2017, for stays until 31 December, 2017.

"We are excited to partner with Singapore Airlines to highlight the vibrant and colourful Southeast Asia region and its warm hospitality," said Shangri-La Executive Vice President, Cetin Sekercioglu. "As a destination, Southeast Asia has so much to offer – art, culture, heritage, nature, culinary experiences and innovative events that attract and engage all kinds of travellers. There is truly something for everyone in ASEAN."

SPAIN RECORDS 100,000 INDIAN ARRIVALS

Spain registered 105,646 Indian arrivals in 2016, an increment of 17.08 per cent over the previous year. In this way, for the first time, it has surpassed the number of 100,000 tourists coming from India. The latest official data indicates that 105,646 Indian tourists travelled to Spain to enjoy their holidays last year. The average stay was 7/8 nights, which makes it a total of approximately 780,000 nights. The main destinations that Indian tourists visit continue to be Barcelona, Madrid, Andalusia, Valencia and Ibiza. However, there is some interest in new destinations such as Bilbao, Mallorca and Canary Islands. In addition, data collected during the first half of 2017 suggests that the growth in the number of arrivals from India will be even greater during this year.





LET IT **RAIN** OVER ME

Wondering where to travel this monsoon? Book a front row seat to nature's best with GReaT trails by GRT Hotels at half the price

TT BUREAU

Travellers can plan a quick family getaway to the picturesque hill stations of Yercaud or Kodaikanal, in the beautiful valleys of Tamil Nadu with GReaT trails by GRT Hotels.

Located 20 minutes from the hustle and bustle of central Kodaikanal, The GReaT Trails Kodaikanal by GRT Hotels has 40 cosy cottages designed with luxury and romance in mind. The landscape is reminiscent of the English countryside – rolling hills, calming views, outdoor dining, timber chalets and rock cabins.

Drive up from Salem to Yercaud if you're in the mood to relax by the pool while you take in the green valleys. Or, spend your day trekking through surrounding coffee plantations when staying at the GReaT Trails Yercaud by GRT Hotels. Choose from Penthouse, Valley View, Panorama and Poolside rooms, share a lovely candlelit dinner on the sky-bridge, and enjoy a hot chocolate by the bonfire.

Both resorts offer a range of adventure activities, including bridge climbing and river crossing, along with well-equipped indoor entertainment centres. Best of all? Their 'Half-Price Hungama' means you get all of this and more at half the price till September.



IHG ACHIEVES "2017 AON GLOBAL BEST EMPLOYER" ACCREDITATION

IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) has announced its "Aon Global Best Employer" accreditation by Aon Hewitt. The acclaimed accolade comes in the company's first year of participation in the global survey and is complemented by country-level accreditation in 46 out of the 64 countries assessed by the professional services firm, representing 97 per cent of its workforce.

Deborah Woollard, Vice President, Human Resources, Asia, Middle East and Africa, IHG, said: "At IHG, we always say our brands represent our promises to our guests, but it is our people who deliver on those promises. And, we are absolutely committed to helping our colleagues grow into their full potential. It is this commitment that has earned us the trust and loyalty of our people and being named "Aon Global Best Employer" in the industry is a huge testament to that."



INDIA SALES ASSOCIATES INTRODUCES PANACEA KOH SAMUI RESORT

The Luxury Hotel Marketing & Consultancy firm, India Sales Associates, has signed up the ultra-luxury Panacea Koh Samui resort for GSA services in the Indian market. "Koh Samui, in Thailand, is well positioned among high-end luxury travellers from India. Panacea Koh Samui resort, with its uniquely designed large private pool villas and superlative personalised services is a perfect fit for friends and families vacationing together. It offers customised benefits for honeymooners and couples. We are happy to present this unique resort to the Indian market," says Manas Sinha, Director, India Sales Associates, Gsa-Panacea Koh Samui.



YATRA INTRODUCES NEW 'XPLORE' FEATURE

Yatra.com is now making it easier to search and book holidays worldwide within your preferred budget. Bringing innovation in the way flight tickets are booked, Yatra has introduced a new feature - 'Xplore'. With this user friendly, easy to navigate and visually appealing feature, Xplore aims to revolutionise and simplify the user experience while planning a holiday within a stipulated budget. In a situation where the traveller knows his travel budget, but doesn't have a specific destination in mind to travel to, this advanced search option will help him search for destinations based on the budget. In case the traveller has chosen the holiday destination, but is unaware of the cheapest time to travel, 'Xplore' helps with this search too.

VASUNDHARA SAROVAR PREMIERE, VAYALAR, FOCUSES ON GREEN INITIATIVES

Green is a huge theme at Vasundhara Sarovar Premiere Vayalar, no less evident than at architecture, design and facilities in and around the hotel. As a part of its sustainability efforts, the premium backwater resort in the virgin region of Vayalar, has started a new process of recycling discarded towels by turning them into a planter box. This initiative from the Engineering & Housekeeping department at the hotel further reinforces its belief on Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.



MADHUBALA'S FIGURE UNVEILED BY MADAME TUSSAUDS DELHI

Madame Tussauds, Delhi, scheduled to launch later in 2017, is unveiling the figure of Madhubala, the timeless beauty of Indian cinema. The figure will be displayed at the 23rd Madame Tussauds at Delhi, where she's set to bring alive the golden era of Hindi cinema with everlasting grace when the attractions open.

During the unveiling, Madhubala's sister Madhur Brij, said, "We are overwhelmed to know that Madhubala's figure would be part of the Madame Tussauds, Delhi."

Anshul Jain, General Manager and Director, Merlin Entertainments India Pvt. Ltd, said, "We are ecstatic to be unveiling Madhubala's figure in Delhi. Madhubala is unarguably one of the most beautiful women the world has seen and her aura remains amongst her fans even today."

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND RESORT PRESENTS STELLALOU

This August, Hong Kong Disneyland Resort (HKDL) welcomes StellaLou, the newest friend of Duffy the Disney Bear. This little lavender-coloured bunny, with cute ears and starry eyes, dreams of dancing on the Broadway stage. She will now share her dream of becoming a dancer with fans at her new home in the theme park. Justin Chan, Merchandise Operations Integration Manager at HKDL, said, "Our Duffy and Friends Collections are extremely popular with our guests, second only to our Mickey and Minnie assortments."



SHAH RUKH KHAN DISCOVERS LA THROUGH AIRBNB

Airbnb has transformed the way people travel, as they look to plan their getaways and have unique travel experiences on Airbnb. The next big guest to find his vacation abode is renowned Bollywood actor, Shah Rukh Khan.

Speaking about his experience living in the Airbnb home, Actor Shah Rukh Khan said, "There's no place like home to disconnect from the outside world, and spend some time with oneself. Living here like the locals in our spacious and beautiful LA home has been an ideal break. This has been a perfect retreat."



TRN MARKETING INTRODUCES UNIQUE VACATION AND AIR TRAVEL OPTIONS

TRN marketing
Travel Representation Network
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TRN Marketing focuses on unique holiday options. Vacationers, honeymooners, women travelers, water sports enthusiasts, take your pick. Memorable experiences is our promise. To help the trade to make choices we have introduced competent DMCs from East Asia to the African Rim.

Its partnership with airline principal, Atlasglobal, carrier from Turkey allows TRN Marketing to offer unique air travel options within Turkey and beyond into Europe from the carrier's Istanbul hub. Call us for this experience.

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SIMARJEET SINGH has been appointed as the General Manager at The Chancery Pavilion, Bengaluru. His career spans close to two decades of a rich and diverse experience in the hospitality industry. He has held eminent positions with renowned brands like Radisson Blu, Park Plaza and Intercontinental to name a few. In this new role he will provide leadership and strategic direction to the hotel team and will focus on maximising revenues and creating personalised guest experiences.



GANESHRAMIYER has been designated as Rooms Division Manager at Holiday Inn Mumbai International Airport. With over 14 years of experience in the hospitality industry, Iyer has gained mastery over several aspects of the hospitality industry, ranging from rooms to front office, revenue projections to guest relations. In his current position he will be overseeing the functioning of the front office, formulating budgets and preparing monthly revenue and expense forecasts.



MARVIN ALBALLI has been named as the new Director of Restaurants and Bars – India, Middle East, Africa (IMEA), at InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG®). In his remit, Alballi will be focussed on driving commercial operations across IHG's restaurants and bar (R&B) offerings in IMEA and generating greater revenue and profitability for the company's hotels. He will also be responsible for operational excellence and delivering great guest experiences across the region.



NEHA RANA DUTTA has been appointed as the Assistant HR Director at Radisson Blu Plaza, Delhi Airport. Prior to joining here she worked with Shangri-La's Eros Hotel, Delhi, as a Human Resources Manager. With an enriching experience of nine years backing her, Dutta is confident that her expertise and contribution will help in amplifying the overall functioning of the hotel.



SANDEEP DWIVEDI has been named Chief Operating Officer at InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ). With over 25 years in executive management and business supervisory roles, he spearheads commercial strategy and business growth in the organisation. He has previously led the position as Chief Commercial Officer at ITQ and served in InterGlobe group companies in different capacities, Dwivedi has demonstrated spectacular leadership competency with the company's growth in the market.



RISHI KUMAR has been appointed as the Director of Operations at Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel, at Brigade Gateway. Kumar comes with an experience of over 14 years in the industry and has worked with brands like Taj Group and The Orchid Hotels. At Sheraton Grand Bangalore, his role would be to lead the overall operations of the hotel while working in tandem with different head of departments. He will be also actively involved in designing and planning the marketing strategies of the hotel.



NAMIT AGNIHOTRI has been designated as Hotel Manager at The Roseate, New Delhi. In his new role, Agnihotri will be responsible for planning and administering hotel services and operations at the flagship hotel. Agnihotri brings 21 years of experience in the hospitality industry to the role. In his previous assignments, he has held senior leadership positions like General Manager at The Gateway Hotel Vadodra (Taj Group of Hotels), a position that he held since September 2016



TEJ BAHADUR SINGH has been appointed the Head – National Sales at India Sales Associates. He brings over 20 years of experience in the hospitality and airline sales. His last assignment was in the role of Area Manager for leading carrier Jet Airways, looking after Central Indian region covering Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, etc. Spearheading the business development and partnership alliances, he will be responsible for augmenting the network of luxury travel agencies and tour operators to support the growth of the GSA service in India.

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THE MARRIOTT POWERHOUSE



With 87 hotels and over 18,000 rooms in India across 15 brands in 19 cities, Marriott International is not only a hospitality behemoth, but boasts a culture of high performance, commitment and excellence

KAMAL GILL

In today's dynamic travel and hospitality world where change is a buzzword, an oft repeated question that arises is, 'What draws the demanding millennial market to travel experiences?' Discerning travellers of today, who work hard and play hard seek novel experiences in an authentic environment. Hotels and travel companies are hard pressed to offer something extraordinary, be it location, service, style, soul, design, seclusion, facilities or romance. But, above all, as far as the hospitality industry is concerned, properties must affect the way you feel – life should be better after you check-in. Marriott International strives to be one such luxury brand.

With more than 75 exceptional properties in gateway cities and distinctive resort locations around the world, Marriott International hotels are reputed for their authenticity and for putting guests at ease in an environment of relaxed elegance and effortless luxury. The desire for an authentic experience translates into Marriott properties reflecting and embracing their locale and offering quietly meaningful services that help travellers achieve their goals seamlessly. The company's primary purpose is the guests' over-all well-being and is in sync with business whiz Steve Jobs' dictum, "Give customers exactly what they want, the way they want it, when they want it – before they even know what they want."

Being customer-centric is exactly what the Marriott brand is all about. As part of the core Asia Pacific leadership team responsible for creating and executing a strategic road map to establish brand positioning and expand market share of the Marriott portfolio in South Asia is Neeraj Govil, Area Vice President – South Asia, Marriott International.

With over 14 years in the hospitality sector, Govil brings a wealth of international experience and expertise to the table, spanning across several disciplines, including Operations, Marketing Strategy and Business Development. He is reputed for his strong financial acumen, the ability to create innovative



business models and consistently deliver outstanding results in operational excellence, service delivery and revenue growth. In conversation with Today's Traveller, Govil expands on key priorities, leveraging brand portfolio, the merger and future plans.

Govil reflects on the recently concluded merger which makes Marriott International "the largest hotel company in the world." He informs, "The merger has brought significant brand portfolio strength, whether it is in the luxury, premium or select service tiers. Coupled with the geographic distribution, this gives us tremendous leverage." Key priority areas over the next two years "would be to elevate the positioning of each of our brands, ensure that they have definitive and distinct nuances making them unique and thereby enabling our guests choose the one that fit their needs and expectations the best." Govil informs that Marriott International has "a healthy mix of hotels, both in the business and in the resort space," and that it is their fervent endeavour to be able to offer 'the right brands at the right place' in the country."

Two other priority areas according to Govil include increasing the brand's loyalty base and talent development, both of which he proceeds to expand upon. With three exceptional loyalty programmes in place, namely, Marriott Rewards, Starwood Preferred Guest and Ritz Carlton Rewards, Govil points out how, at Marriott, "We strongly believe that rewarding our customers extends beyond just product or service purchases. We believe in providing unique experiences which they can remember and which create repeat usage." When it comes to talent development, Govil brings in the other advantage that the merger has brought in its wake, which is "a joint pool of some exceptionally talented individuals."



With a 100+ hotel pipeline Govil explains that there is a continuous requirement to develop resources to translate and execute the vision on the ground. "We stay committed to nurturing and training our associates as well as providing them opportunities within the vast eco system of our network to further their careers. We continue to strive to create a culture of high performance, commitment and excellence," declares Govil.

Today, size matters, and to be successful in today's hospitality world, a wide distribution of brands and hotels across price points is critical. Currently, Marriott International has 87 hotels with over 18,000 rooms in India across 15 brands in 19 cities, making them the largest operator in the country by number of guest rooms, appries Govil. There is robust growth across all segments, including luxury.

Select service brands like Courtyard by Marriott, Fairfield by Marriott, Four Points by Sheraton and Aloft have expanded their presence in emerging tertiary markets, and Govil foresees that they will become major revenue drivers in the coming years. Says Govil, "The bandwidth we now have post the merger has seen a very positive acceptance from our customer base and why not, because now our guests can enjoy a huge distribution which means more choice, the broadest portfolio of brands, the power of such a vast global footprint and loyalty programmes with great member benefits coupled with an unparalleled guest experience."

Reiterating the value add-ons of Marriott International's merger with Starwood, Govil dwells on how it impacts guests. "With the addition of Starwood's strong brands, great properties, and talented people, we have dramatically expanded our ability to provide the best experiences to our customers." From a pre-merger total of just 7 brands countrywide, the company is a composite of 15 brands post- merger. "A merger of this size provides us with a larger pool of marketing dollars to curate campaigns specific to the target consumer and engage with them through digital and social media platforms," reveals Govil. Millennials are the new customers, and Govil shares that the agenda is "To work on influencer strategies to create immersive experiences to keep them curious, intrigued and wanting for more when they engage with our brands."

In conclusion, Govil affirms that future plans indicate an upward trend. With 87 hotels already established, there are over 100 hotels on the anvil within the next five years. "Our expansion plans will see us further consolidating our portfolio in established Tier 1 cities. We will also be opening hotels in markets like Vishakhapatnam, Coimbatore, Jodhpur, Srinagar, Indore, Coorg and Siliguri. As far as South Asia goes, we already have hotels in Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan and we will soon open our first resort in Sri Lanka," signs off Govil.





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CORPORATE JET-SETTER

SANJOY RAY

Director – Advisory & Transaction Services
CBRE South Asia Pvt Ltd

You dream of going to?

Those rugged islands of Hawaii are where I would love to visit.

Favourite airline and why?

Till date, my best experience has been with British Airways. They have excellent services and the food is amazing.

Best hotel experience and why?

I don't have any favourites, but based on luxurious accommodation, excellent services and delicious food, Oberoi Hotels and Resorts and Rambagh Palace, Jaipur are two that I consider to be good.

A place you plan to visit again?

My last visit to Goa and Andaman and Nicobar islands was amazing, something worth experiencing again.



A family vacation that stands out?

For family vacations Goa, Manali, Singapore, Malaysia and Kerala would be ideal. Each has its own unique quality that appeals to me, making it hard for me to choose just one.

Your best holiday with friends?

My visits to Jaipur, Goa and Manali have to be the top three of my holiday destinations with my friends.

Where did you enjoy the best food?

Delhi, Kerala and London, these three places have the best food.

What to watch out for while travelling?

Firstly make sure that the accommodation is at a convenient location, secondly, travel light, and most importantly, make sure that transport arrangements have been made prior to travel.

As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Travel well, stay well and enjoy the holiday all the way through.



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21

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे
(3 सिविल एन्क्लेव तथा
3 संयुक्त उद्यम हवाई अड्डे)
International Airports
(3 Civil Enclaves &
3 Joint Venture Airports)

+

08

कस्टम हवाई अड्डे
(4 सिविल एन्क्लेव)
Custom Airports
(4 Civil Enclaves)

+

77

अन्तर्देशीय हवाई अड्डे
Domestic Airports

+

19

अन्य सिविल एन्क्लेव
Other Civil Enclaves

=

125

हवाई अड्डे
Airports

CORPORATE JET-SETTER

AMITAVA ROY

Assistant Vice President
Premises Infrastructure and Procurement
Fullerton India

Most memorable trip to any destination?

Though there are a lot of places that are very close to my heart, Prague and Germany are closest, as after a long time, my daughter, wife and me could spend some quality time together.

You dream of going to?

Rome, Paris and Switzerland are my dream destinations.

Favourite airline and why?

Emirates, because it has world-class services. Big aircraft, great lounges, good food and good people. It's a class apart in Economy Class, too. They have a wide range of movies and various food options and kids are taken care of very well.

Best hotel experience and why?

The Oberoi Vanyavilas, Ranthambore. In one sentence, "They don't use the word 'No' for anything." Cottages are very spacious and showcase world-class luxury. Classy and very elegant, the best part is that they have an exclusive jungle safari. All in all, outstanding experience.



A place you plan to visit again?

The countryside of Prague and Germany.

A family vacation that stands out?

It would definitely have to be Prague and Germany.

Your best holiday with friends?

Goa. Whenever we plan something, it's Goa.

Great food you enjoyed and where?

Momo centre on Mall Road, in Darjeeling.

What to watch out for while travelling?

Ensure advance planning and get advance confirmation. It's better to reconfirm things before travelling and keeping all emergency nos. / services in hand.

As a travel buyer, what's your philosophy?

Good service, economical logistics and good property. The property or service provider should be capable of handling all situations. Service, food travel – everything should be worth the money you pay.



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FM EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS 2.0

iNFHRA announces – 7 City Knowledge tour on “The Future Workplace: Shaping the World of Tomorrow”

TT BUREAU

● NFHRA is an industry body and member-based association representing more than 1,500 members from the Facility Management & Administration, Workplace & Infrastructure, Corporate Travel & Hospitality, Corporate Real Estate, Safety & Security & Procurement professionals.

Building on iNFHRA's vision to share knowledge, best practices, and introduce the latest innovation and products to their members, iNFHRA has announced the – 7 City Knowledge Tour on “The Future Workplace: Shaping the World of Tomorrow.” The cities that are being covered in this tour are Bengaluru, Pune, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai.



FM Learning Lab – an out-of-the-box forum for Best Practice Sharing

Continuing in its quest to innovate in the way it organises its conferences and encourage best practice sharing from the audience, iNFHRA is conducting “FM Learning Lab” at the end of each of the conferences, and encouraging members of the audience to come on stage and share what they have done differently in their organisation that could benefit the community at large. These sessions are being mentored by industry leaders.



‘Impact of GST for Non-Financial Teams’ discussed in iNFHRA Pune Conference in May 2017

There is lot of ambiguity around GST and how it will impact the FM & Admin teams. iNFHRA invited Sarthak Saxena (IRS), Deputy Commissioner, Central Excise & Service Tax, Pune-I Commissionerate, to address the audience on the Impact of GST for Non-Financial Teams. The session was very well received by an exclusive audience of 150 plus senior professionals from Maharashtra.

East India’s second Corporate Travel, Facility, Real Estate & Admin meet at The Lalit Great Eastern

iNFHRA organised East India’s second get-together in June 2017. The session was attended by more than 100 leading corporates from East India. The speakers deliberated on various topics that impact their day to day operations and also how to create and manage workplaces, keeping in mind future business prospects, as well as the next generation workforce.

Some of the key companies that participated in Kolkata were Aditya Birla Group, Bandhan Bank, Birla Sun Life Insurance Company Limited, Capgemini India Pvt. Ltd., CBRE South Asia Pvt.Ltd, Cognizant Technology Solutions, Colliers International, IBM India, Indusind Bank Limited, Jones Lang LaSalle, Magma Fincorp Ltd, Reliance Retail Limited, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro Limited, and many more.

The topics that are being covered in the Conference & FM Learning Lab in Pune and Hyderabad are:

- India on Future of Workplace: Are We Keeping up with the Pace of Change
- How to Get the C-Suite to Take Your Workplace Needs Seriously
- Workplace Safety & Health Programme
- Digital Disruption in Corporate Travel
- What FM Professionals Should Expect from the Design Team
- Implementing & Facilitating a Sustainable Energy Management Programme and Process
- Technology Trends & Their Impact on Commercial Buildings



iNFHRA FM Excellence Conference & Awards 2017-18

Building on the objectives of iNFHRA’s Facility Management Committee of promoting the facility management profession through recognising excellence, and after the successful first edition in 2016-17, iNFHRA is organising the 2nd Edition 6-City Award Tour of FM Excellence Conference & Awards across Bengaluru, Pune, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Chennai, from October 2017 to March 2018.

The awards are being supported by Jones Lang LaSalle, Cushman & Wakefield and CB Richard Ellis.

The award categories include:

- Corporate Travel, Transport & Logistics
- Technology & Innovation
- Corporate Real Estate
- Safety & Security
- Best Office Design – PMC & Architects
- Ecological Sustainability

For more information on the awards and to associate with or support the same, kindly email on support@infhra.org.

COLLECTOR'S COLLECTION

Golf is a game, played with patience and determination – for some it's effortless, for others it could be frustrating and complicated

TT BUREAU

A game where talent is not the only requirement to get the ball very far or closest to the hole, players require other paraphernalia too. Golf has always been synonymous with spiked shoes, collared T-Shirts and cigars. When playing the game, you require a complete golf club set. The club set should include several fairway woods, irons, wedges and a putter in a golf bag. So, as you gain experience while playing the game, you can create a fully customised set that suits your needs. Let's look at some exclusive set of clubs.

HONMA FIVE STAR GOLF CLUBS

The Five Star Golf Club set comes all the way from the land of 'Samurai'-Japan. Honma has been recognised as the producers of the most expensive 'set' currently in the market. According to the company, set means drivers, woods, irons, wedges and putter, along with the bag, tees and head covers. The uber golf set from Japan has 14 pieces and each club is made of pure gold and titanium. Prominent celebrities like Jack Nicholson and Danny DeVito use this club set.

Price Tag: \$32,000

A.G. SPALDING & BROTHERS PALMER PATENT FORK SHAFT WOOD

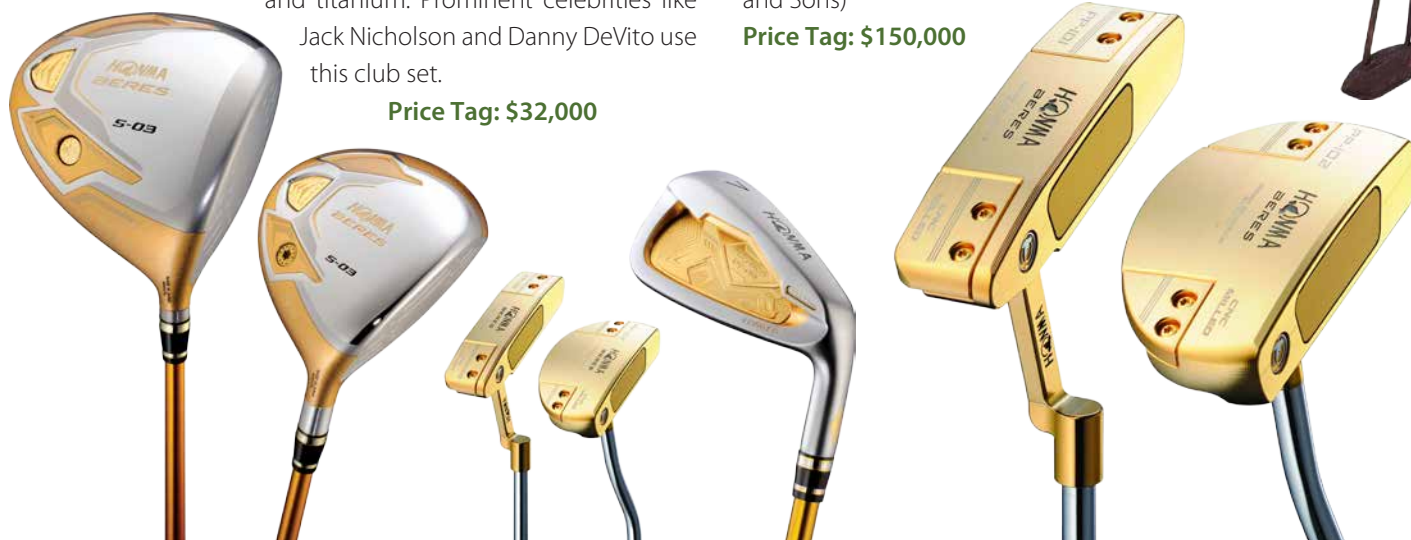
For a long time, Spalding as a brand has been associated with sports. The brand first started as producers of basketballs, and now produce a range of products for sports like baseball, American football, volleyball, softball and soccer. Decades ago, the firm started creating golf clubs.

Price Tag: \$49,000

BARTH & SONS GOLDEN PUTTER FIRST LADY SPECIAL EDITION

The German club created the Golden Putter for passionate golf players with a five-micrometer thick coating of 24-carat gold in the shaft that is made of cherry wood with diamonds. Personalised to fit the client's demands, the hand-crafted club set can be embroidered with more gems on demand. Made in a both traditional and modern form, each stick is emphasised by custom engravings. (Pic Courtesy: Barth and Sons)

Price Tag: \$150,000



WOW EXPERIENCES

In conversation with Richard Barooah, General Manager, Radisson Udaipur

TT BUREAU

Radisson Udaipur is one of the most sought after MNC Business Hotels in Udaipur. What sets you apart?

We opened the hotel keeping in mind the prevailing market condition, along with the futuristic growth of the city. Udaipur city is on its way to becoming a smart city according to the Government of India's plans. So, we knew there would be a continuous growth in terms of business travellers seeking quality hotels. Udaipur is predominantly known the world as a tourist destination, so most hotels are designed to acquire business from the leisure and wedding segments and most of them are designed to suit the needs of tourists. Thus, when Radisson Udaipur was opening we thought of going more futuristic keeping in mind the development of the city and its industries. We realised the need for a serious business hotel which was lacking in the city, Radisson Udaipur is a neat fit as it is strategically located in the heart of the city, along with the Lake City Mall. The hotel is designed keeping in mind the requisites of today's discerning business travellers and focusses on a 'wow' service with our Carlson hotels' 'Yes I Can!' philosophy.

How have you been able to leverage MICE and the FIT market?

Radisson Udaipur being a business hotel, our major focus has always been with corporate and business travellers. However, our penetration into ecommerce, which is substantially much higher than most hotels in the city, owing to our stronger brand equity and the rave reviews on electronic media by our esteemed guests, has made it one of the fastest selling products on various portals and our brand website. Though we are a business

hotel, but Udaipur being one of the most popular tourist destinations, we receive over thirty percent of FIT traveler. The hotel also focusses on high-end MICE business delivering the best tailor-made MICE experiences.

Radisson Udaipur excels in guest satisfaction among Carlson Rezidor Hotels in Southeast Asia. Kindly elaborate the services and facilities that one might expect and what sets you apart?

Radisson Udaipur, being a Carlson Rezidor managed property, our hotel is driven with one great philosophy, which is 'Yes I can!' As a hotel we do plenty of data mining of our guest's feedback, be it from our internal feedback system like Medallia or comment card or from our daily courtesy calls. We also track guest feedback minutely from the external feedback platform, which could be from TripAdvisor or any OTA portal. We analyse every feedback by putting them into a scoring system, so it becomes easy to analyse and monitor our guest satisfaction level. We also continue to implement various innovative methods sometimes even adding surprise elements, just to drive a 'wow' experience even for our repeat guests. To be more proactive we also incentivise team members who are recommended by our distinguished guests, thus motivating every team member to deliver an elevated 'wow' experience.





A HEAVENLY MATCH

A match made in heaven, wines and cheese translate to a romantic date or a family celebration – just raise a toast

TT BUREAU

Peanut butter and jelly, salt and pepper, Mac and cheese, the list of perfect culinary combinations are endless. But, there is one combination that stands apart from the rest – wine and cheese. Luxury means having a glass of great wine matched with perfectly aged cheese. In French cuisine, Wine, Cheese and Bread form the Divine Trinity. Wine and cheese have a lot in common, apart from the fact that they perfectly complement each other.

Both reach their maturity and peak flavour through ageing, requiring specific locations and climatic conditions. The age-old tradition of making wines and cheese exist today, the exactly same way it was produced centuries ago, by family members of original cheese makers. Power and acidity are the only rules to be followed when pairing them together. The flavour of the

wine should not be strong that it overpowers the cheese and vice-versa. Another rule when pairing wine and cheese is to ensure that products are from the same region as they share the same properties.

Pairing wines and cheese is not only an art, but also a culinary science that has a scientific reason when consumed together. Wine feels dry, but it matches perfectly with the fatty consistency of the cheese. The coupling of wine and cheese requires attention-to-detail and precision by the finest artisans. You can use the age-old technique of trial and error to expand your knowledge about this pairing. Earlier, it was a tradition to pair white wine with soft cheeses and red wine with hard cheeses. Currently, this rule has become passé. Triumph over the essentials, and there is no reason you cannot have a small wine and cheese party.



2014 MAYU PEDRO XIMÉNEZ WITH GEIT-IN-STAD

This wine comes from old vineyards in Chile on decomposed granite, quartz-rich soils. This wine is much more communicative as compared to standard Pedro Ximénez, with aromas from white flowers, fennel and spices with high acidity, thanks to the altitude as well as pressure and minerals; it blends perfectly with Geit-in-Stad, that translates to 'goat-in-the-city', and is a delicious goat cheese. The cheese has a firm yet smooth texture that just melts in your mouth. If you like the fresh, sober style, this is a real deal.

2013 BADET CLEMENT BEAU CHÊNE WITH TERRALUNA

France is the most romantic place on the globe and is also the 'wine capital of the world.' This wine is more full-bodied as compared with Burgundy, with flavours from raspberry, cherry fruit and black current, and is very much French, coupled with Terraluna that comes from the Cheddar family that has a deep

flavour. This award-winning cheese of superior quality owes its flavour and texture to the mineral-rich soil where cows are grazed and also to the producers who are no less than artistic producers.

2014 CASA VINICOLA BOTTER GRAN PASSIONE ROSSO WITH PECORINO SARDO

Straight from the Veneto region of Italy, this wine is a blend of 60 per cent Merlot and 40 per cent Corvina and is said to be one of the best values from the region. This is a great day-drinking wine that is dark purple in colour, amalgamated with bright vibrant fruits paired with Pecorino Sardo, which is cheese made from sweet sheep's milk. The flavour of the cheese is delicate and mild, reflecting the native herbs and grasses the sheep graze on. Flavours of lemon and thyme accolade the smooth creamy texture and sweet flavour. This cheese is produced to be consumed as a young cheese as it is cured only for 30 to 40 days. Incorporate this cheese in baked pastas, vegetable soup,



frittatas, quiches and salads and there shall be a blast of diverse flavours in your palate.

2013 JAM CABERNET SAUVIGNON WITH GOUDA 4-YEAR AGED

Based on the names of the owners John and Michelle, this wine is a blend of Merlot, Petite Verdot, Petite Sirah and Zinfandel. Once you take in the aromas, fragrance of sweet berries will bombard you. This California wine will mesmerise you with its distinguished flavours and aromas of faint spice and vanilla and will make you fall in love with it. Pair this wine with the perfect balance of salt and sweet Gouda that has a deep caramel colour, that is crunchy, crystalline, and meltingly smooth on the tongue. This aged cow milk is full of flavour. The hint of butterscotch at the end is a signature mark of this Dutch treat.

N.V. QUINTA DO NOVAL PORTO BLACK RESERVE RUBY PORT WITH NORTH COUNTRY BLUE

Quinta do Noval in Portugal is quintessentially famous for



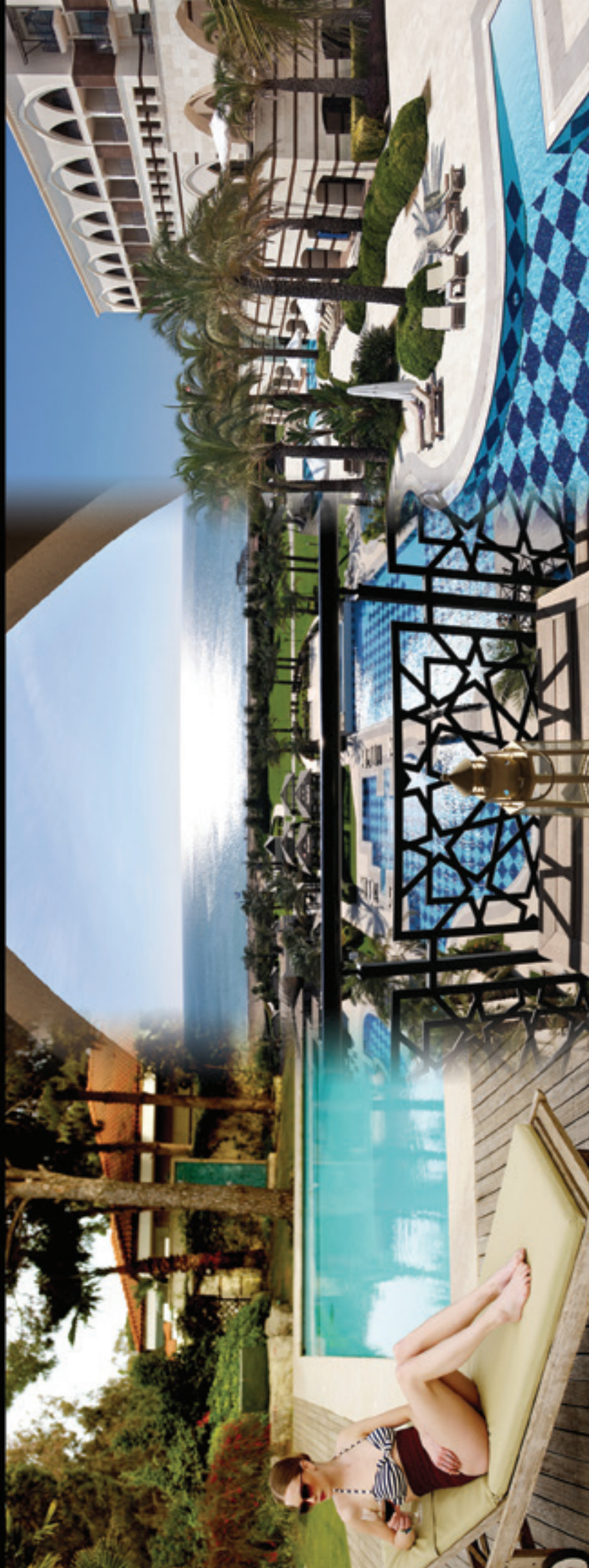
producing a diminutive quantity and the most expensive Port. There are ripe blackberries, tar, smoked and orange liqueur on the nose that takes time to open. The palate is medium-bodied, very sleek on the entry, fleshy black fruits, sloe, spice and just a hint of white pepper, leading to a much focussed finish. North Country Blue is a raw-milk cheese that is cave aged for 3 months. It develops a strong and pungent taste, but not with the soapiness that is often found in other American Blue cheeses.

SEMELÉ SANCERRE ROSÉ WITH GARROTXA

This wine is derived from the Loire Valley and features red berries and minerals, has a deep salmon pink colour, aromatic with fresh red fruits. This wine goes perfect with Garrotxa, a Spanish pasteurised goat's milk cheese that has an ash-grey, suede-like coat and an inside texture that's firm but smooth. This cheese is slightly acidic and slightly sweet in flavour.



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BLISSFUL BATHS

Introduced by the Romans, today Spa Baths have redefined the health and beauty benefits of this ultimate mode of relaxation

TT BUREAU

Spa baths, as we all know, are the epitome of ultimate relaxation, but what's often thought of as an indulgent and time consuming part of a beauty routine could also give us serious health benefits. Spas everywhere offer us a variety of baths that promise to do everything, from reducing cellulites to detoxing our skin, all while boosting our immunity, easing our achy muscles and draining our accumulated fatigue. We all go through this scripted motion where we have lots of pent up stress and accumulated fatigue – all that results in severe illness. Here are a few luxury Spa Bath therapies that could help make our lifestyles healthier.

WINE BATH

Wine therapies fall under the umbrella of Vinotherapy and are said to rejuvenate the skin with polyphenols while potentially reducing the appearance of cellulite. Meadowood Spa, located in California Wine Country, uses wine extract for bathing purposes, as its antioxidants remain undiluted since it doesn't have the alcohol content. It's basically a beauty therapy process where the residues of wine making (the pips and pulp) are rubbed into the skin. The pulp is said to have excellent exfoliating qualities and helps reduce the problems associated with ageing. If you can't make it to the Caudalie Spa in Bordeaux, where wine and honey treatments and merlot wraps are provided, book a trip to New York City to visit Aire Ancient Baths for a red wine ritual that includes a soak and four-handed massage.

CHOCOLATE BATH

We all know that dark chocolate lowers the levels of stress hormones and sugar stimulates the release of the mood-improving hormone serotonin. Cocoa's benefits are not just

limited to its consumption. A chocolate bath can relieve fatigue and tone your body and enhance the breakdown of fats in the deep layers of the skin while increasing the blood flow in the superficial layers of the skin, thereby helping to achieve the anti-cellulite effect. This therapy also helps strengthening your hair and giving it some shine. Various spas provide these therapies, but the Spa at Hotel Hershey is the mecca of chocolate bathing.

HOT AND COLD HYDROTHERAPY BATH

This relaxation and muscle-invigorating practice increases circulation and promotes muscle relief. When heated, it also relaxes stiff joints and is usually mixed with oils and salts that provide additional benefits. A mixture of varying water temperatures is a widely used technique at many spas.

Heat penetrates your skin and affects your underlying tissues: superficial and deep. Applying heat to your tissues increases blood circulation and causes your connective tissue to become more flexible. It also promotes a transient reduction in your joint stiffness, pain and muscle spasms and can help you reduce inflammation and congestion in your tissues.

On the other hand cold cools your skin's surface and underlying tissues and results in the narrowing of your blood vessels. This reduces blood volume at the site of your injury, resulting in reduced swelling, and also decreases the likelihood that your cells will die due to lack of oxygen.

When applied in successive fashion, heat and cold are believed to exert a physiological effect on your body's pain gate mechanism, which temporarily alters pain signals travelling to and from your brain. The ritual bath at the Spa Palazzo at the Boca Resort and Spa includes hydrotherapy tubs on top of a Swiss shower and a deluge – a warm-water massage.



AVIATION



AAI SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

Going ahead with its commitment towards the responsibility of creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in the country, Airports Authority of India (AAI), has signed an MoU with Government of Uttarakhand and joined hands with Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA).

The MoU was signed by S Ramaswamy, Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand, and Anil Gupta, General Manager (Business Development), AAI, in the presence of Dr R Rajesh Kumar, ACEO, UCADA; Capt Ashok Shetty, Head of Ops, UCADA; Chandra Shekhar, AGM (Business Development), AAI; Capt Sandeep Soti, Chief Pilot, UCADA and G. Seetaiah, Chief Engineer, UCADA.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary, GoUK, reiterated that the Government of Uttarakhand is determined to fulfill the long pending requirement of operational airports within the state. These airports would also be part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme and will boost tourism and air connectivity for the local public. **tt**



FREIGHTER SERVICES TO MUMBAI INCREASED

The Frankfurt-based air freight carrier Lufthansa Cargo has increased its freighter services to Mumbai. Since July, the airline operates four instead of three freighter flights to the Indian megacity. "This change sees us strengthening our position in the regional air freight market", says Frank Naeve, Lufthansa Cargo Vice President, Asia-Pacific.

Lufthansa's cargo arm also serves the Indian metropolises Bengaluru, Chennai and Hyderabad, each with two freighter services a week. Additionally, the cargo capacity of 42 weekly passenger flights between various Indian cities and the hubs in Frankfurt, Munich and Vienna is offered by the German logistic company.

"We are proud to have had long-standing connections with customers in the Indian air cargo industry since 1959. Our aim is to build on this in the future", says Peter Gerber, Lufthansa Cargo CEO and Chairman of the board. Two years ago, the Lufthansa Cargo emphasised this by renaming its McDonnell-Douglas MD-11 freighter with registration D-ALCJ "Namaste India". **tt**



Zarir Kheshwala, Head of Sales (Mumbai), Lufthansa Cargo; Frank Naeve, Vice President – Asia Pacific, Lufthansa Cargo; Peter Gerber CEO and Chairman of Executive Board, Lufthansa Cargo and Ivo Seehann Director – Sales (Delhi), Lufthansa Cargo.

NEW FLIGHTS STRENGTHEN THAILAND'S STATUS AS GLOBAL AVIATION HUB

Five international airlines are expanding air access to Thailand with new flights from Beijing, Doha, Istanbul, Maldives, India's Jaipur and Tiruchirappalli, and Singapore, strengthening the Kingdom's status as a global aviation hub.

Yuthasak Supasorn, Governor of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said, "Thailand has long been the key portal to Asia and the global aviation hub. Steady passenger growth depends on more flights and finding new entry points to the country. These new flights provide visitors with more choice, flexibility and convenience when travelling or making connections to major cities around Thailand. We hope that the expanded air access boosts tourism arrivals." **tt**



SINGAPORE AIRLINES UNVEILS NEW IN-FLIGHT SAFETY VIDEO

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has unveiled its new in-flight safety video, which takes viewers on a panoramic journey across various locations in Singapore, beyond the traditional space of an aircraft cabin. The new safety video is the result of a bilateral agreement signed between SIA and Singapore Tourism Board (STB), aimed at jointly promoting inbound travel to and through Singapore and showcasing the city state to a global audience.

"Our new safety video provides a more captivating way of effectively presenting safety information to our customers as compared to the more conventional approach that we have taken up to now," said Singapore Airlines Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing, Campbell Wilson.

"We are delighted that SIA's new safety video offers a warm and refreshing take in conveying safety information by weaving in Singapore's vibrant cultures, attractions and sights," said Lynette Pang, Assistant Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board. **tt**



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OMAN AIR LAUNCHES THIRD DAILY FLIGHT FROM MUSCAT TO MUMBAI

Launched on 1 August this year, the two-hour 50 minutes flight departs Muscat at 22.40 hrs and arrives in Mumbai at 03.00hrs. The return flight leaves Mumbai at 04.05 hrs and reaches Muscat at 05.15 hrs. Oman Air already has two daily return flights between Muscat and Mumbai – the outgoing flights depart Muscat at 01.20hrs and 9.00 hrs, arriving in Mumbai at 05.40hrs and 13.20 hrs respectively. The returning flights leave Mumbai at 16.15hrs and 6.55hrs, reaching Muscat at 17.30 hrs and 08.10 hrs.

Abdulrahman Al-Busaidy, Deputy CEO & Chief Commercial Officer of Oman Air, said: "We are extremely happy to announce this new service between Muscat and Mumbai. The addition of this flight is part of our wider commitment to the Indian market. India is a key destination for Oman Air and the demand for all 11 of our Indian destinations has always been high. Increased frequencies offer yet more choice and convenience to our guests, who will now be able to leave Muscat in the evening and arrive in Mumbai the following morning. We are sure this new service will prove just as popular as our other Indian routes." **tt**



EMIRATES HIGHLIGHTS FEMALE ROLE MODELS IN AVIATION

Championing the importance of women's contributions to the growth and development of aviation, Emirates recently hosted Shaesta Waiz for a Boeing 777 simulator challenge in its home base of Dubai.

Adel Al Redha, Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, Emirates Airlines, said: "Through our National Cadet Pilot Programme, we want to grow the next generation of female pilots, by creating an environment that retains, nurtures and values them so they are able to progress and take a wider role within our industry."

Bakhita Al Muheiri also commented on the simulator experience with Shaesta: "I am truly inspired by Shaesta's story. As the first civilian female pilot from Afghanistan, she has demonstrated that the world is full of possibilities and when we expose females to a wide range of careers in STEM and aviation we boost their interest to enter fast-moving sectors with a wealth of opportunities."

Commenting on her twin engine Boeing 777 simulator challenge, Shaesta said: "An airplane doesn't know if you are a girl or boy, what your religion or background is. It reacts based on the input of the pilot." **tt**



OMAN AIR COMPLETES 24 YEARS OF OPERATIONS IN INDIA

Oman Air, the national carrier of Oman, offering high-quality service and connecting and promoting Oman to the world, completes 24 years of operations in India, this year. Paul Gregorowitsch, CEO – Oman Air, visited India to mark the special occasion and met with the airline's top travel agents in the country. He also met with Oman Air's key commercial partners and senior media representatives.

Speaking on the completion of 24 years of operations in India, Gregorowitsch said, "India has always been and will continue to remain a key market for Oman Air. We are delighted to be offering thousands more guests the opportunity to travel between Oman and India. Oman and India enjoy a close and historic relationship and Indian air travellers have played an important part in Oman Air's success." **tt**



MUNICH AIRPORT PRESENTS MIRRORS OF THE SOUL

The face is a mirror of the soul. It reveals what defines a person – the memories and experiences, fears and longings. Italian artist Marco Pejrolo attempts to capture all of this in his pictures. For his exhibition, "Spiegel der Seele (Mirrors of the Soul)," which is now making a stop at Munich Airport, he made portraits of 47 refugees. "In his black and white photographs, which capture the faces in incredible detail, Marco Pejrolo has reduced the subjects to what is essential – their humanity," said Ingo Anspach, head of the airport's press department, at the opening night of the exhibition.

"As a result, the artist has found an entirely new angle for a subject that news reports usually associate with anonymous masses." **tt**



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EXPLORER



RAINBOWS IN THE NORTHEAST

Welcome to the many coloured hues of Northeast India's fiestas

TT BUREAU

Northeast India proudly flaunts its rich and colourful festivals, most of which are related to agriculture or the beginning of a New Year.

The festivals are commemorated for days with various folk dances and music and present a wonderful opportunity for people belonging to different tribes to bond. The sumptuous delicacies, alluring costumes, soulful music, warm hospitality and the lively ambiance give one enough reason to be an active part of the festivities in the Northeast.

NONGKREM DANCE FESTIVAL

Shad Nongkrem is a sacred dance of Meghalaya, usually celebrated sometime during the month of November at the

village of Smit. This is a magnificent fiesta that is celebrated with tremendous pomp and grandeur.

Shad Nongkrem, being the most important festival of the Khasi people, is performed by

the Syiem of Khyrem, who sacrifices a cock to appease the gods of the ruling clan and the deity of Shillong peak (U-Lei Shillong). Sacrifices are made as offerings to their ancestors and because of this, this festival is also known as Ka Pomblang.

Unmarried girls and boys dressed in their beautiful, traditional attires perform this dance. Girls perform Ka Shad Kynthei in the inner circle of the arena. Boys with their swords in their right hand and white yak hair in their left, perform the Ka Shad Mastieh in the outer circle.



The ever changing beats of the drums and pipes (Tangmuri) takes the fervour of this festivity to the next level. On the whole Nongkram Dance is one of the most superb carnivals that manifests itself with a colourful hue and brings in more shades to the entire state in this zealous celebration.



DREE FESTIVAL

The Apatani, the main tribe living in Ziro, perform a series of rituals and festivals celebrating different phases of agriculture for an abundant yield of crop. Chandii Tamu is a rite performed during the sowing period, Dree during every growing



period of crops and Yapung, just before the harvest. Dree has become one of the major festivals for Apatanis.

Dree, is primarily a harvest festival, celebrated to ensure a good harvest. During this festival, people offer prayers to four gods namely, Tamu, Harniang, Metii, and Danyi. The 3-day celebration and festivities start with dance performances by children, young and old, traditional wrestling performances and food stalls at the venue.

After all the rituals and sacrificing, the throes of the celebration move to the next level with the tribe's most popular folk dance Daminda, a welcoming dance that marks the beginning and end of the Dree festival. This dance, performed to the strains of Daminda Biisi, is a ballad recounting the origin of the festival, welcoming the guests to participate, persuading the god of agriculture for a plentiful harvest and prosperity for the whole of mankind.

As the sun sets, evening turns brighter and more colourful with

the 'Miss Apatani Beauty Contest,' an event to showcase the beauty of their culture and how it blends with today's modern world.

BIHU

Bihu is a harvest festival that has come to be known as the national festival of Assam, a state well reputed for its tea gardens, mighty Brahmaputra River and lush green forests. The Bihu festival is a set of three different cultural festivals of the state, Rangali or Bohag Bihu, Kangali or Kati Bihu, and Bhogali or Magh Bihu.

Bohag Bihu being one of the most prominent festivals in Assam coincides with Baisakhi, which falls around April. On the first day, devotees bathe and thank the animals for helping them in the farm work, while praying to the gods for a productive year ahead. The second day, known as Manuah (human) Bihu, people dress up in new clothes, exchange gifts and visit their relatives and seek blessings from their elders. In the third and final day, known as, Gosai (God) Bihu, people worship their household gods, seeking their blessing for a fruitful and abundant year ahead. Husori, a band of male singers, visit each and every household and sing traditional Bihu songs while offering their blessings to the household in return for some alms and gifts.





aspects of this particular festival is the selection of Chahitaba, a man selected by the Maibas (priests) based on the former's horoscope. The chosen Chahitaba is meant to give up his name for a year and bear all the sins of the people. He is responsible for the good or ill of the whole community. Another important ritual associated with the festival is the climb to the Cheiraoching hilltop, located in Imphal, which ignites the belief in them that most anyone could scale great heights in life.

KUTS OF MIZORAM

In local Mizo vernacular, 'kut' means festival. Mizoram has three festivals, Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut, all connected to agricultural activities.

Chapchar Kut is celebrated in the month of March, marking the arrival of spring. This is one of the oldest festivals of Mizoram, considered to be the most important traditional festival, celebrated with great pomp and splendour. People gather together, dressed in colourful traditional clothes and hats made from beads and parrots' feathers. A traditional bamboo dance is performed by the women while the men sit on the ground and beat the bamboos against each other. Over the years each village has developed its own brand of celebration according to time, idiom and ethos.



CHEIRAoba

Also known as the Spring Festival is the New Year of the Manipuri people, celebrated on the first day of the month of Sajibu (March-April). People dress up in their traditional attire, decorated their houses, prepare delicacies and then offer them to their deity Sanamahi. Then they visit their relatives to exchange gifts and wishes and blessings for the New Year.

One of the important





the people have preserved their cultural heritage along with their customs and legacy while keeping the torch of their tribal identity well lit. This festival encourages inter-tribal harmony and promotes local culture and traditions while displaying their unique customs, rituals and practices. Tourists are warmly welcomed and are treated well. The celebrations are attended by all the major tribes of Nagaland who represent themselves with various arts, folk songs, dances and games. There

GARIA PUJA

The most admired carnivals among Tripura's Kokborok-speaking tribal folks, is celebrated with various traditional rituals along with a dance concert at the end. The Garia Puja is

are numerous displays of handicrafts, handloom, multi-cuisine local food stalls while a rich amount of rice beer is always at hand to indulge in. Evenings



are lit by the thrilling Hornbill National Rock Concert in which bands from all over the country and abroad participate to compete. This is followed by the amazing Night Market in the town. But, the most attractive event

celebrated with great pump and glory in the last day of the month of Chaitra (April).

Garia is the compassionate deity of every household. People worship Garia and celebrate this puja with dedication and efficiency in order to keep their house in order and ensure peace and serenity. The symbol of the deity is carried from house to house by the people while singing and dancing to the rhythmic sound of the drums. The songs are sung to appease the gods, to relieve one from the suffering and to increase the production of crops.

at the festival is the Naga chilly eating competition and pork eating festival which draws a lot of crowd and evokes much fanfare and excitement.



HORNBILL FESTIVAL

This festival is one of the biggest celebrations of the indigenous warrior tribes of Nagaland. Named after the most venerated bird species in the state, this festival revolves around agriculture, which is considered sacred.

In spite of modern influence,



KICKING THE BALL

As victory instils support for Clubs and the games they play, UEFA Champions League begins

TT BUREAU

With the start of UEFA Champions League, football fever is here and we're all eagerly anticipating the showdown that lies in store for us. Waving our team's rosettes, following the stats of every player, and making sure each match is a gala with friends, is what such tournaments are all about, unless you could do one better by following matches across Europe.



ENGLAND

England, one of the most visited countries in the world, offers sports travellers endless possibilities when it comes to fun things to see and do. The British Isles, home to more than 40,000 registered clubs, is simply bursting with fascinating centuries-old history and exciting, rich cultural traditions of football. At every turn you can find historic sites like Ulgham, near Ashington in Northumberland, from where comes the first account of 'kicking ball' game.

Apart from old castles dotting the picturesque countryside and colleges dating back to the 'Middle Ages' to ancient Roman sites and centuries-old royal palaces, England is famous for major football clubs like Chelsea FC, Arsenal, Everton, Leicester City, Liverpool, Manchester City, Manchester United, Southampton, Stoke City, Sunderland, Swansea City, etc. England, being extremely easy to get around, whether you choose to tour the country by car or public transport, unforgettable experience is guaranteed.

The world's finest collection of football artefacts and archives can be explored at the National Football Museum. Make a short journey to Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United Football Club and experience the stadium through the eyes of Manchester United greats on stadium tour. They also offer stadium and club tours that showcase the pride, passion and heritage of the club.

SPAIN

Ever since the late 60s and early 1970s, Spain has been a popular destination for summer holidays, especially with large numbers of football fans from the UK, France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux, among others. Football here is synonymous with spectacle. As many as four Spanish teams are competing in the Champions' League, and clubs such as Barcelona, with six titles under their name in one year: the Spanish League, the Champions League, the King's Cup, the Club World Cup, the European Super Cup and the Spanish Super Cup; whereas Real Madrid holds the amazing record of having won ten European Cups. For all these reasons, if you love football, Spain is the ideal place to indulge your passion all year round. Madrid and Barcelona are unparalleled destinations, in Spain, for football fans.

Football fans can live their dream, walking on the turf of a legendary football pitch, visiting the changing rooms, and sitting on the bench imagining about managing a game. All this can be done by visiting Santiago Bernabéu home stadium of Real Madrid, Camp Nou home stadium of FC Barcelona and Wanda Metropolitano home stadium of Atlético de Madrid, the stadiums of the best football club, where one can witness spectacular matches, visit the trophy rooms and enjoy a meal overlooking the pitch.

However, football isn't everything. There are other events that can't be missed such as the Madrid Tennis Open where you can see the world's best players in action. The city is also home to two famous athletics events, the Marathon and the San Silvestre race, just another example of Madrid's wholehearted commitment to sport.

GERMANY

Football is Germany's number-one spectator sport, ever since Fussball, brought by an English expat to Dresden in 1874. The national team lifted the 1954 World Cup even before Germany had a professional national league. Fast-forward a few decades and the team cemented its reputation for invincibility with a style that emphasised hard work over individual flair. Not only has Germany won three World Cups and three European championships, it has not lost a penalty shoot-out since 1976, as millions of England fans rue.





Munich is home to FC Bayern München, one of the most successful and well-known football clubs of Germany, winner of 24 times German championship, 15 times German football cup, 5 times UEFA Champions League / European Cup (in 1974, 1975, 1976, 2001 and 2013).

With the tour of Allianz Arena, home stadium of Bayern Munich, fans can experience the thrill and madness of being in the home turf of their favourite club and experience the atmosphere of the Allianz Arena from the point of view of a professional footballer in the players' areas and discover the exciting details of this unique structure. Take an Arena Tour for a behind-the-scenes insight into this extraordinary and unusual stadium.

Beyond football both basketball and hockey are popular in Munich. FC Bayern München's basketball team represents Munich in Germany's basketball league and EHC Red Bull München has been playing since 2010 in Germany's top ice hockey league.



FRANCE

France is the perfect destination for a football tour and has a huge amount to offer touring teams, with Paris Saint-Germain, the champions league qualifier for 2017, excellent opportunities for activities away from the field of play. Whether you want to take part in one of the many youth tournaments that take place over Easter & Whitsun, or have a more social weekend with a couple of friendly fixtures thrown in, or just visit your favourite clubs and support them, France definitely has what you need and maybe even more. Fans could choose to stay a little closer to their home team in Lille or Paris, or travel to sunnier climes on the Cote D'Azur and Marseille, Nice or Monaco.

Marseille, the second-largest city in France, has an excellent maritime heritage in the Vieux Port (Old Port), a neighbourhood of stylish boutiques in the Republique Quarter, the old-fashioned La Palmyre district, which traces its roots back to antiquity, and of course, the renowned Cathedrale de la Major with people, who are devoted to their home football team, Olympique de Marseille, which has the highest attended games of any French team, probably because they are among the best teams in the league each season. The team has been French champions ten times, and they have also won the French Cup ten times.

Similarly, Nice, blending modernisation with old-worldly heritage, pleasing climes, and beautiful beachfronts, provides the tourist everything one could possibly imagine: from gastronomic restaurants to marvellous architecture, from old neighbourhoods to swanky marketplaces along the French Riviera, and the everlasting influence from the Jazz Age, has its own home club, Olympique Gymnaste Club Nice Côte d'Azur, commonly known as OGC Nice.

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RECOGNISING THE BEST

20th Anniversary Celebrations of Today's Traveller celebrates excellence in performance with the 11th Annual Today's Traveller Awards 2017, at a gala evening at the Taj Palace New Delhi



The cover of the Today's Traveller Coffee Table Book 2017, Quantum of Success, being unveiled by SK Mishra and VK Duggal.



Recognising our appreciation for Gold Partner – Bihar Tourism.



Recognising our appreciation for Focus Brand – Carlson Rezidor.



Recognising our appreciation for Airline Partner – United Airlines.



Recognising our appreciation for Associate Partner – Oman Air.

The long anticipated event, the 20th Anniversary Celebrations of Today's Traveller, the 11th Annual Today's Traveller Awards 2017 and the Cover Launch of the Coffee Table Book 2017 'Quantum of Success', was attended by VK Duggal, former Governor Manipur and Mizoram, Government of India, who gave away the 11th Annual Today's Traveller Awards 2017 at the Taj Palace New Delhi. He was the Chief Guest for the Cover Launch of the 11th Annual Today's Traveller Coffee Table Book, 'Quantum of Success', and presided over the 11th Annual Today's Traveller Awards. Over 400 top-level management professionals from the Corporate, Travel and Hospitality segment attended the grand event.

The much awaited cover launch of the Today's Traveller Coffee Table Book, 'Quantum of Success' by Padma Bhushan Shri SK Misra, former Chairman INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage), former Principal Secretary to the 8th Prime Minister of India and VK Duggal, former Governor Manipur and Mizoram, Government of India was a highlight of the evening.

Reflecting the mood of the times and the profound changes taking place in the realm of technology and business, the theme of Today's Traveller Coffee Table Book 2017 is 'Quantum of Success'. The book contains game-changing experiences and milestones, viewpoints and beliefs of innovators and frontrunners, leaders of the corporate world and captains of the hospitality, travel and other industries. It covers game-changing strategies of leading organisations in both government and private sectors.

Today's Traveller saluted Vinod Kumar Duggal, former Governor of Mizoram and Manipur, as *Friend of the Tourism Industry* for his rich contribution to the

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Kewal Gill, Chairman, Gill India Group; Dr Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Stic Travel Group; Nakul Anand, Chairman – FAITH & Executive Director, ITC Ltd; VK Duggal, former Governor of Manipur & Mizoram and Kamal Gill, Executive Editor and Managing Director, Gill India Group lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Keynote Panel Discussion: Unlocking the Tourism Potential — Connectivity and Infrastructure

Panellists included VK Duggal, former Governor of Manipur & Mizoram, in conversation with Nakul Anand, Chairman – FAITH & Executive Director, ITC Ltd; Dr Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Stic Travel Group and Santhosh Kumar, CEO – Operations and International Director, Jones Lang LaSalle India.



Torch Bearers Panel Discussion: Developing Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities

Panellists included Suresh Kumar, Managing Director, Fortune Park Hotels; Satyen Jain, CEO & Director, Pride Group of Hotels; Rattan Keswani, Deputy Managing Director, The Lemon Tree Hotels; Ajay K Bakaya, Executive Director, Sarovar Hotels, and were moderated by Romesh Koul, CEO, Naaz Hotel Consultants Pvt Ltd.



Leaders Panel Discussion: Outlook 2020

Panellists included Rajiv Kaul, President, The Leela Palaces Hotels & Resorts; Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group; Vikram Madhok, MD, Abercrombie & Kent (I); Shantha de Silva, Head of Southwest Asia, IHG; Neeraj Govil, Area Vice President South Asia, Marriott International and were moderated by Sudhir Gupta, Founder & CEO, TLC Group.



PRESENTATION BY MANAV THADANI CHAIRMAN - ASIA PACIFIC, HVS



FELICITATING OUR PANELLISTS



SOME LIGHTER MOMENTS



promotion and development of the travel, hospitality and tourism industry over decades.

The citation recognised Vinod Kumar Duggal as the man who helped shape the 'Raindrops in God' campaign during his stint as Secretary and Development Commissioner Goa Tourism. Later, as Director General Tourism, Government of India, Duggal has worked with his team at the Ministry of Tourism on the hugely successful Incredible India campaign and as Union Home Secretary, where he helped the Ministry of Tourism with *Visa on Arrival* schemes in 2006, when the first approval for 16 countries was given.

Receiving the recognition, Vinod Kumar Duggal said, "In whatever position I have worked in or outside the Government or wherever I have worked in India and Overseas, Tourism has been close to my heart and it has always been my endeavour to do my bit for the industry as a whole and even for individuals associated with Tourism Sector."

Today's Traveller Awards, the most respected awards in the travel industry, has always identified and recognised the achievements and accomplishments of progressive companies and leaders from the industry. The 11th Today's Traveller Awards recognised success stories that have redefined the rules of the game. The event was partnered and supported by Gold Partner Bihar Tourism; Focus Brand Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group; Airline Partner United Airlines; Hospitality Partner Taj Palace New Delhi and Associate Partner Oman Air.

VK Duggal, former Governor of Manipur & Mizoram said, "India is a mega market in itself. And it's not only numbers; it is the kind of spending power at the domestic visitor's disposal that can change the face of travel. India being a sub-continent in itself has a massive tourism potential at its doorstep, both in the form of foreign as well as domestic tourists. As our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has commended India's tourism potential and its role in multi-sectoral development and employment on a number of occasions, and taking these plans forward can only add to the well being of our people and make the Indian economy even stronger."

Kamal Gill, Executive Editor and Managing Director, Gill India Group, said "Sometimes, we never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory. With this in mind, Today's Traveller presents its first ever Summit – Outlook 2020...fittingly on its 20th Anniversary Celebrations. It is a dream Summit with the most influential thought leaders of travel and



Vinod Kumar Duggal
Friend of the Tourism Industry



Tapan Singhel
Inspirational Corporate Leadership
Received by **Tapan Singhel, Managing Director & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.**



Dr Subhash Goyal
Lifetime Achievement
Received by **Subhash Goyal, Chairman, Stic Travel Group**



VK DUGGAL, FORMER GOVERNOR, MANIPUR & MIZORAM GIVES AWAY THE TODAY'S TRAVELLER AWARDS 2017

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Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group

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Received by **Raj Rana, Chief Executive officer, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group**



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Best First Class Business Hotel Chain

Received by **Suresh Kumar, Managing Director, Fortune Park Hotels**



Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd

Best Organisation for Financial Support to Tourism Industry

Received by **S P Arora, Managing Director & B M Gupta, Executive Director, Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd**



The Sonnet

Best Business Hotel in Kolkata

Received by **Ravi B Parikh, Director, The Sonnet Hotels & Resorts**
Rajib Roy Choudhury & Swati Chakravorty, General Managers, The Sonnet Hotels



Club One Air

Best Luxury Charter Services Company

Received by **Rajan Mehra, Chief Operating Officer, Club One Air**





Mercury Travels Ltd

Best Travel Company for Customer Satisfaction
Received by **Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chairman, Mercury Travels Ltd**



Lufthansa

Best International Airline of the Year
Received by **Wolfgang Will, Director – South Asia, Lufthansa Group**



As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, **Manav Thadani, Chairman – Asia Pacific, HVS**, hosted a presentation on '20 years of Hospitality & Travel: The Past, the Present and the Future.'

South African Tourism

Best Adventure Tourism Destination
Received by **Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager – India, South African Tourism**

The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi
Best Customer-Centric Hotel in Delhi
Received by **Deepali Bhatia, Director of Sales & Marketing, The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi**





Cygnett Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd
Best Technology-driven Budget & Mid-market Hotel Chain
Received by **Sarbendra Sarkar, Managing Director & Founder,**
Cygnett Hotels & Resorts



Best Western Hotels & Resorts
For Most Promising Hotel Brand
Received by **Atul Jain, Chief Operating Officer &**
Tajinder Singh, Vice President Sales & Marketing - India,
Bangladesh & Sri Lanka



TGI Hotels & Resorts
Best Independent Hotel Chain (Domestic)
Received by **Amitava Roy, CEO & Arun Kumar, Executive**
Director, TGI Hotels & Hospitality Services Pvt Ltd



BLS International
Best Visa Service Provider
Received by **Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director,**
BLS International Services



Bihar Tourism
Best Heritage Tourism Destination
Received by **Bipin Kumar, IAS, Resident Commissioner, Bihar**
& **Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS, Additional Secretary & Director**
Tourism, Government of Bihar



The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa
Best Luxury Spa Resort in Sohna-Gurgaon
Received by **Ashwani Nayar, Multi Property General**
Manger, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi & The Westin
Sohna Resort & Spa & Animesh Barat, General Manager,
The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa



WelcomHeritage
Best Heritage Hotel Chain
Received by **Sunil Gupta, Chief Executive Officer & Sunil Sikka,**
Head – Marketing & Business Development, WelcomHeritage





Andaz Delhi

Best Conceptualised Lifestyle Hotel in Delhi
Received by **Heddo Siebs, General Manager, Andaz Delhi**



SOTC Travel Ltd

Best Outbound Tour Operator
Received by **Daniel D'Souza, Head of Sales, SOTC Travel Ltd**



Radisson Udaipur

Best Business Hotel in Udaipur
Received by **Richard Barooah, General Manager, Radisson Udaipur**

Le Meridien New Delhi

Best 5 Star MICE Hotel in Delhi
Received by **Meena Bhatia, Vice President - Operations & Marketing, Le Meridien New Delhi**





Radisson Hotel Shimla

Best Leisure Hotel in Shimla

Received by **Vikas Kapoor, Vice President – Operations, Radisson Hotel Shimla**



Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty

Best Upcoming Deluxe Luxury Hotel in Kochi

Received by **Girish Bhagat, General Manager, & Mausam Bhattacharjee, Director Sales & Marketing, Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty**



Clarks Inn Group of Hotels

Most Popular Brand in Budget Hotel Chain Category

Received by **Nitin Srivastava, Director - Sales & Marketing, Clarks Inn Group of Hotels**



Wildwinds Hotel

Best Upcoming Leisure Hotel In Jambudi, Rajasthan

Received by **Krishna Patel, President, Wildwinds Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd**



The Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa

Best Luxury Resort & Spa Promoting a Tourism Destination

Received by : **Mohit Gupta, Director of Sales & Marketing & Pratyush Mohapatra, Marketing & Communication, The Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa**



Charson Advisory Services Pvt Ltd

Best International Publicity & Promotion Company

Received by **Carl Vaz, Chairman & CEO, & Sonalee Vaz, Managing Director, Charson Advisory Services Pvt Ltd**



Ramada Lucknow Hotel

Best Convention Facility Hotel in Lucknow

Received by **Joyjit Chakravorty, Hotel Manager, Ramada Lucknow Hotel**





Four Points by Sheraton Visakhapatnam
Best Customer-Centric Hotel in Visakhapatnam
Received by **Ashwani Nayar, Multi Property General Manger, The Westin Gurgaon, New Delhi & The Westin Sohna Resort & Spa on behalf of Aditya Shamsheer Malla, General Manager of The Four Points by Sheraton Visakhapatnam**



Manipur Tourism
Best State for Showcasing Art & Culture
Received by **Jenee Thoidingjam, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Manipur Bhawan, Delhi**



Meghalaya Tourism
Best Adventure Tourism Destination
Received by **S R Marak, Joint Resident Commissioner, Meghalaya House, New Delhi & Ava Sangma, Tourist Officer, Meghalaya Tourism, New Delhi Office**



tourism gathered here today. The travel and tourism industry is, in a manner, the Front Office of the world...the first window reflecting happenings the world over, and therefore the most susceptible to global order changes. I look forward to an intellectual storm where several brilliant minds sift through the system changes and share strategic perspectives and insights."

The event was attended by dignitaries like Lt Gen K M Seth, Former Governor of Tripura & Chhattisgarh & President, Foundation of Aviation & Sustainable Tourism; Dr AK Manocha, CMD, IRCTC; Bipin Kumar, IAS, Resident Commissioner, Government of Bihar; Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS, Additional Secretary cum Director Tourism, Government of Bihar; SR Marak, Joint Resident Commissioner, Government of Meghalaya; Renowned Fashion Designer, Ravi Bajaj; Upeksha Samaratunga, Minister (Commercial), Sri Lanka High Commission; Rajiv Duggal, CEO – Tourism Business, Essel Corporate; Manav Thadani, Chairman – Asia Pacific, HVS; SP Arora, Managing Director, Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd and BM Gupta, Executive Director, Tourism Finance Corporation Of India Ltd.

Corporate leaders attended the event included Tapan Singhel, Managing Director & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd; Capt Rajesh Sharma, MD – Integrated Facilities Management & Asset Services, Cushman & Wakefield; Santhosh Kumar, CEO – Operations and International Director, Jones Lang LaSalle India and Gaurav Moudgil, Partner, Global C.

The event also hosted leading entrepreneurs and leaders from the Travel and Hospitality industry, such as Suresh Kumar, Managing Director, Fortune Park Hotels; Satyen Jain, CEO & Director, Pride Group of Hotels; Rattan Keswani, Deputy Managing Director, The Lemon Tree Hotels; Ajay K Bakaya, Executive Director, Sarovar Hotels; Romesh Koul, CEO, Naaz Hotel Consultants Pvt Ltd; Rajiv Kaul, President, The Leela Palaces Hotels & Resorts; Raj Rana, CEO, South Asia, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group; Vikram Madhok, MD, Abercrombie & Kent (I); Shantha de Silva, Head of South West Asia, IHG; Neeraj Govil, Area VP South Asia, Marriott International; Sudhir Gupta, Founder & CEO, TLC Group; Nakul Anand, Chairman – FAITH & Executive Director, ITC Ltd; Krishna Patel, President, Wildwinds Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd; Ravi B Parikh, Director, The Sonnet; Gaurav Bhalla, Managing Director, Vatika Hotels Private Ltd & Director, Vatika Ltd; Sarbendra Sarkar,





Managing Director & Founder, Cygnett Hotels & Resorts Pvt Ltd; Atul Jain, COO - India, Sri Lanka & Bangladesh, Best Western Hotels & Resorts; Ashwini Kakkar, Executive Vice Chairman, Mercury Travels Ltd & Chairman Via.com; Dr. Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Travels Group & Member, National Tourism Advisory Council, Government of India; SN Srivastava, President, Clarks Inn Group of Hotels; Sunil Gupta, CEO, WelcomHeritage; Rajan Mehra, Chief Operating Officer, Club One Air; Wolfgang Will, Director - South Asia, Lufthansa Group; Harvinder Singh, Country Manager, United Airlines, Praven Chugh, President - TAFI; Rajan Sehgal, Chairman, TAAI Northern Region; PP Khanna, President, ADTOI; Pronab Sarkar, President - IATO; Capt Swadesh Kumar, President - ATOAI; Chander Mansharmani, Vice Chairman, ICPB; Naveen Jain, President, Duet Hotels; Vinayak Saboo, Owner, The Westin Pushkar Resort & Spa; Amitava Roy, CEO, and Arun Kumar, Executive Director, TGI Hotels & Hospitality Services Pvt Ltd and Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, BLS International Services.



As a first, commemorating the 20-year-journey of Today's Traveller, the publication hosted its first Summit: Outlook 2020 - with three panel discussions comprising industry experts and eminent leaders from the corporate, travel and hospitality realms. The panel discussions included:

As part of the 20th anniversary celebrations, Manav Thadani, Chairman - Asia Pacific, HVS, hosted a presentation on '20 years of Hospitality & Travel: The Past, the Present and the Future.'



What: Onam
When: September 4, 2017
Where: Kerala, India

Onam starts, Kerala parties. The most famous festival from 'God's 'Own Country' makes the vibrant state more energetic and lively. An annual gala comprising boat races, song, dance and most important, food, completes the celebration of the land and for all the facilities that nature provides. The festivities last for ten days, prominent dances like Kathakali, Kaduvakali are performed with elegance and finesse.



What: The Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair
When: September 14 to 17, 2017
Where: Istanbul, Turkey

For all you modern art lovers, head to Turkey for a spectacular Art Fair. The Contemporary Istanbul Art Fair has been attracting not only art enthusiasts, but also prominent names like Art Basel and Frieze. The country's artists are getting the global recognition that has been off the radar for some time.



What: Ludlow Food Festival
When: September 8 to 10, 2017
Where: Ludlow, United Kingdom

The second gourmet capital of UK hosts its annual food festival, where more than 160 exhibitors set up their camps in the grounds of Ludlow Castle. If you are a foodie and consider food as your priority, then this festival is right up your street. Sample your favourite local produce or taste local beers of the local pub culture.

What: Oktoberfest
When: September 16 to October 3, 2017
Where: Munich, Germany

Munich's world-renowned Beer-fiesta is back with a wide variety of brews. This carnival dates back to 1810 to celebrate royal weddings. Get involved in various activities like concerts, parties, balls, and even a horse race. This festival attracts five to six million visitors every year, mostly tourists and travellers. Celebrate life the traditional way with freshly-brewed beer and excellent wines with traditional Oktoberfest food.



What: Halloween Celebration
When: 31 October, 2017
Where: USA

The time has come to fulfil your childhood fantasies. Dress like your favourite character from Jack Satan, Count Dracula, Elvis' Ghost or Frankenstein. Part of the celebration include Halloween balls, parades, fright feasts, costume galas, walking tours of the ghostly, infamous sights in Greenwich Village and Union Square in New York, spook streets and haunted houses in New Orleans, Dallas, Hollywood, LA, Florida and Disney World. As customary celebrations take place in the night, dress in black is a tradition. Halloween is all about having a good time. So carve that pumpkin and get spooky.

What: Ziro Festival of Music
When: September 22 to 25, 2017
Where: Ziro Valley, Arunachal Pradesh

Whether you are a music lover or a musician, this four-day music carnival is a perfect fiesta for all. With prominent names in the circuit, like Indus Creed, Sha'air, Louw Majaw, Barmer Boys, and Peter Cat Recording Company participating in this carnival, you are bound to indulge your passion for music. This event brings some of the best talent around as the valley is situated at a height of 5,500ft above sea level.

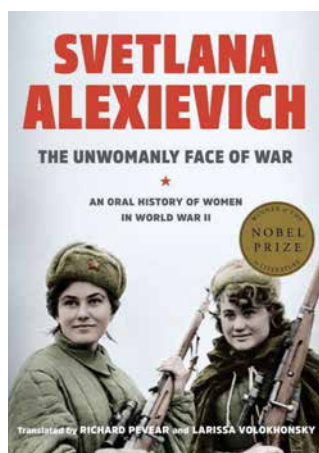


PICK OF THE MONTH



The latest collection of books, games, audio CDs and DVDs are here to keep you entertained for the month

BOOK: THE UNWOMANLY FACE OF WAR



From the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature comes a long awaited English version of the pioneering spoken account of the participation of women during World War II across Europe and Russia. The Unwomanly Face of War archives the experiences of the Soviet women who participated on the border, not only on the home front, but also in the occupied territories. These women – more than a million in total – were mostly nurses, doctors, pilots, tank drivers, machine-gunners and snipers. They fought with men and yet post triumph, their

sacrifices became history. Alexievich travelled distances to visit more than a hundred towns to document the stories of these countless heroes. Together, this masterpiece of voices showcases a different characteristic of the battle – the daily facts of living within battle blown away in the authorised histories.

Genre (s): History

MUSIC: DRUNK PARTY ANTHEM BY GORILLAS IN GROOVE



The very first album by Gorillas in Groove (GiG) is an amalgamation of various genres and themes. GiG is an alternative funk rock band with a heavy touch of grunge, alternative and a whole lot of groove. After being recognised as one of the grooviest bands in today's counter-culture, indie music scene of India, this three-piece band came up with songs that bring out their best.

Consisting of Pravir on drums from Chennai, Mp on guitars from Mizoram and Avi on vocals and bass from Darjeeling, they want to show that music has an amazing way of bonding people. Songs in this album are composed and mixed in such a way, under the supervision of Sajin A. Stanly, that each instrument complements the other while promoting its finest.

Genre (s): Funk, Rock, Alternative, Reggae, Blues

DVD: THE WALL

A deadly psychological thriller of two American soldiers patrolling in the Iraqi desert, who are fired upon by a sniper. The only cover they can find is a small, unstable wall. They shelter behind it, still taking fire from the enemy sniper, trying to pinpoint him, but he is too well concealed. Trapped with no help for miles, their fight becomes as much a battle of will and wits as it is of lethally accurate marksmanship.

Genre (s): Drama, Mystery and Suspense



GAME: SUDDEN STRIKE 4

As in all previous instalments of the series, the action takes place during World War II. The players assume the role of commanders of the armies of Great Britain and USA, Germany and Soviet Union and participate in large campaigns. The developers prepared more than twenty scenarios in which the player controls various units commanded by generals (including General George Patton and FM Bernard Montgomery).

Genre (s): Strategy



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